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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/707,285	11/01/2000	Michael Brownlie	0500.0008210	8456

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EXAMINER

DADA, BEEMNET W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2135

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/707,285

Applicant(s)

BROWNLIE ET AL.

Examiner

Beemnet W. Dada

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2006.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 16-24, 39 and 40 is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-15, 25-30, 32, 34-36 and 38 is/are rejected.  
7) ☒ Claim(s) 31, 33, 37 is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

  
KAMBIZ ZAND  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in reply to an amendment filed on January 23, 2006. Claim 29 has been amended. Claims 1-40 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 12-15, 25-30, 32, 34-36 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Birnbaum US Patent 5,797,128.
4. As per claims 12, 25, 34 and 38, Birnbaum teaches a computer network security system having enforceable security policy provision comprising:  
  
means for storing variable security policy rule data (for example, length of password, see column 5, lines 40-55) for use by a network node [column 4, lines 33-57];  
  
means, operatively coupled to the means for storing, for securely providing the variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node other than through a forwarded signed message to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level [column 5, lines 1-19 and lines 40-55].

5. As per claims 29 and 32, Birnbaum teaches a computer having enforceable security policy provision comprising:

means for securely obtaining variable policy rule data from a central policy rule data distribution source and not from a forwarded signed message [column 5, lines 1-11];

means, operatively coupled to the means for obtaining, for analyzing the variable policy rule data [column 4, lines 62-column 5, line 5];

means, responsive to the means for analyzing the variable policy rule data, for facilitating unilateral policy enforcement at a network node level based on the variable policy rule data [column 4, lines 40-60].

6. As per claims 13, 26 and 35, Birnbaum further teaches user interface means for facilitating selection of variable security policy rule data for storage in the storage means [column 4, lines 61-67].

7. As per claims 14 and 27, Birnbaum further teaches means for providing provides the variable security policy rule data from a data file [column 4, lines 33-47].

8. As per claims 15, 28, 30 and 36, Birnbaum further teaches means for providing variable security policy rule data facilitates selection of variable security policy rule data on per network node basis for central policy definition for the at least one network node [column 4, lines 33-56].

***Allowable Subject Matter***

9. Claims 1-11, 16-24, 39 and 40 are allowed.

10. Claims 31, 33 and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments filed January 23, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that the prior art on record fails to teach securely providing the variable security policy rule data. Examiner disagrees.

12. Examiner would point out that Birnbaum teaches enforcing security policy provision including means, operatively coupled to the means for storing, for securely providing the variable security policy rule data for distribution to at least one network node other than through a forwarded signed message to facilitate unilateral security policy enforcement at a network node level [column 5, lines 1-19 and lines 40-55 and figure 3]. Examiner would further point out that in Birnbaum a senior administrator is the only one allowed to establish variable policies, change hierarchies and modify variable security policy rule data [column 4, line 47 – column 5, line 10]. Examiner asserts that the Birnbaum meets the claim limitations and therefore the rejection is respectfully maintained.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Beemnet W. Dada whose telephone number is (571) 272-3847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (9:00 am - 5:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



KAMBIZ ZAND  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Beemnet Dada

April 12, 2006